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Keynes Accused of Shifting Position to Suit British Needs

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A distinguished recruit to the ranks of those opposing the Monetary fund proposed at Bretton Woods appeared today when wide distribution was given a pamphlet called "The Economic & Political Consequences of Lord Keynes' Theories."

Written by Philip Cortney, vice chairman and treasurer of Coty, Inc., this publication is being discussed in the financial district both because it reflects conservative French opinion and because it contains what experts describe as "the most outstanding analysis of Keynes' shifts in opinion issued since Bretton Woods became a subject of controversy."

Its immediate interest rests on the fact that Mr. Cortney says frankly that his sole objection to the monetary fund rests on this fear that "it will not permit Great Britain to resume free convertibility of the pound sterling and

will establish exchange control as a permanent institution in many if not all countries." Following up this conclusion, Mr. Cortney takes a stand beside Winthrop W. Aldrich, chairman, Chase National Bank.

Quoting Mr. Aldrich's speech in Chicago on Sept. 15, the French economist, widely read in French circles, approves the recommendation that the U. S. should "provide England with a grant-in-aid sufficiently large to establish stability between the dollar and the pound."

Mr. Cortney then comes completely to the defense of the gold standard, saying that the English people have been misled in respect to its effect. Ascribing British troubles in the period following the first World War to the French undervaluation of the franc and other causes, Mr. Cortney offers proof that the gold standard had nothing to do with the empire's difficulties. Here, of course, he runs counter to Lord Keynes.

Accusing the British Treasury

adviser of fearing competition and favoring monetary totalitarianism, Mr. Cortney cites shifts of opinion that have characterized the noted Englishman's writings shifts passed over without remark in most discussions printed here. But they can be summed up as indicating that the British peer has been an economic nationalist when he thought this would suit English interests and became an internationalist favoring instability for the same basic reason.

Mr. Cortney denies that Lord Keynes is well advised in steering this course, producing a series of reasons for his opinion that England should return to the gold standard. In addition, he cites articles from *Banking*, the *Economist* and other English publications indicating the divergence between Lord Keynes and important segments of British opinion.

That Mr. Cortney will influence French opinion too is considered probable here, as his family control the influential Parisian daily, *Le Figaro*.